

ABOUT WOMEN HAVE COME TRUE.

of prophecy stands Isaiah (the son of Amos, and the great unknown seer, making but one prophet to the early Christian centuries), that prophet whose utterances are Hebrew poetry of the highest type. Isaiah has had his words most grandly fulfilled, for women as for men, in the Victorian age. With joy have they drawn waters from the wells of salvation (Isa. xlii., 3) during those vanished years. The very mention of the word "salvation" brings to the mental vision a picture of that army of tireless workers in the slums who have belted the world with their songs of Christian gladness and their war cries of Christian enthusiasm, while they have won many souls to the religious experiences of "sinners saved by grace." Mrs. Ballington Booth and her sisters in the Salvation and Volunteer armies are exemplifications of the prophecies of Isaiah fulfilled during Victoria's reign.

The "mourning prophet," Jeremiah, whose experiences fitted him to sympathize with all prisoners and captives, wrote words whose echoes were in the hearts of many who have been freed during the threescore years wherein which Victoria has reigned. The serfs in Russia, the slaves in America, have been turning prophecy into history—the women even more than the men rejoicing that—

"The day of freedom dawns at length,
The Lord's appointed day."

However the prophecies of Jeremiah may have had their fulfilment in the histories of Chaldea and Babylon and Egypt, there certainly was an hour since Victoria began to reign when an immortal pen wrote an Emancipation Proclamation which might be deemed a fulfilment of the words, "He shall thoroughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land." (Jer. i., 34.) Amid the sounds of eulogy to a departed general may be heard by attentive ears the music of freedom's note which has been sounded again and again during the reign of the motherly Queen. As Empress of India she herself is giving freedom to the child-widows of India by fostering missions and encouraging education and humane legislation in that portion of her domain, thus fulfilling prophecy as it relates to the oppressed.

Ezekiel, the describer of visions, on the banks of the river Chebar foretold the destruction of Jerusalem, but also uttered words of consolation and promise which after years have been crystallized into history. Those who have read "Egypt, Arabia, Petra and the Holy Land," by Stephens, that prince of travellers before Bayard Taylor, have perceived the fulfilment of prophecy in that "morning land" of the world. Victoria's loyal subject, Dr. Amelia Edwards, found that fulfilment a blessing to at least one woman, and by her graceful pen blessed many other women among the readers of the English language.

That Daniel, the vegetarian prophet, whose experience in the den of lions is the admiration of the boy who reads the Bible stories at his mother's knee, should say anything which could rightly be interpreted as referring to these days, far off from those of his sojourn in the flesh, is not surprising when it is remembered that every promise is a prophecy, and many prophecies are promises.

We recall the words which were never so true before (Dan. xii., 4), "Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." During the sixty years of Victoria's reign the facilities for travelling by steam and electricity have been such that women as well as men have rapidly and comfortably girdled the earth. Knowledge has been increased by the opening of the college doors to women in many lands. The movement in favor of the higher education of women has been started during the latter half of her reign, and it is not assuming too much to affirm that the prophecy related to women, since women are a part of the great human family—as mothers and homemakers a most important part. And as the ruler of Great Britain is a woman, it is specially interesting to observe all the advancement women have made during the last sixty years, and at the end to say, as must be said, the Victorian age was one of great progress for and by women. Mary Somerville,



Elizabeth Barrett Browning, George Eliot—surely these are three "names to conjure with." They lived and wrought during Victoria's reign, and a brilliant list of women's names in England and America might be added who have "drank at the well of English undefiled," and through that language enriched the literature of the world. Daniel's prophecy they helped to fulfil.

The minor prophets—Hosea, Joel, Amos, Obadiah, Jonah, Micah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, Haggai, Zachariah and Malachi—all spoke in the same line of prophecy as the others. Always they taught that "righteousness exalteth a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people" (Prov. xiv., 34), and always as they predicted progress for any people it meant intellectual advancement for the women, and more righteous social equality and freedom for both.

The prophecy of Joel in regard to women has been especially fulfilled during Victoria's reign. "Your daughters shall prophesy," said the son of Pethuel (Joel ii., 28) almost a thousand years before the coming of Christ, and this prophecy has certainly been grandly fulfilled in these last years of the reign of Victoria. For nearly half a century now there have been women regularly ordained to the ministry, not to speak of those grand women of the Quaker, Methodist and other denominations who have proclaimed the Gospel in their allotted ways. In very many churches now women are preaching the everlasting truths of the religion of Jesus. The Queen has had nothing to do with this, of course, but her virtues as a mother and a ruler have helped to increase a respect for all good women in whatever sphere they have been called to labor, and her efforts after peace among her subjects have been so crowned with success that the way has been made easier for all women who teach or preach among English speaking people.

The women of this closing decade of the nineteenth century have reason to "thank God and take courage," while also it should never be forgotten that whatever advances and blesses one-half of humanity advances and blesses also the other. In God's sight there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female, but we are all one in Christ Jesus.

